



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Raised Bill No. 1000

LCO No. 3746



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
ACADEMICALLY GIFTED ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-5c of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

3 (a) The Department of Education may establish a board examination
4 series pilot program to allow local and regional boards of education to
5 permit students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive, to substitute
6 achievement of a passing score on a series of examinations approved
7 by the State Board of Education for the high school graduation
8 requirements pursuant to section 10-221a. The State Board of
9 Education shall issue a board examination certificate to any student
10 who has successfully completed such program. Such board
11 examination certificate shall be considered in the same manner as a
12 high school diploma for purposes of determining eligibility of a
13 student for enrollment at a public institution of higher education in
14 this state.

15 (b) The Department of Education shall establish an academically
16 gifted advancement program to allow local and regional boards of
17 education to permit students in grade eleven to substitute achievement
18 of a passing score on an examination approved by the State Board of
19 Education for the high school graduation requirements pursuant to
20 section 10-221a. The State Board of Education shall (1) issue an
21 academically gifted advancement program certificate to any student
22 who has achieved a passing score on such examination, (2) waive the
23 requirement that such student enroll in grade twelve at the high school
24 of such student, and (3) provide a scholarship for such student to
25 attend a public institution of higher education or participating private
26 institution of higher education in the state. Such academically gifted
27 advancement program certificate shall be considered in the same
28 manner as a high school diploma.

29 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) Notwithstanding the high school graduation requirements
30 pursuant to section 10-221a, for the school year commencing July 1,
31 ~~[2011]~~ 2013, and each school year thereafter, a local or regional board
32 of education shall permit a student to graduate from high school upon
33 the successful completion of the board examination series pilot
34 program, described in subsection (a) of this section, and the
35 academically gifted advancement program, described in subsection (b)
36 of this section.

37 Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is
38 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
39 *1, 2013*):

40 (g) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,
41 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional
42 board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward meeting a
43 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade
44 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds
45 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in
46 grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the high school

47 graduation requirement upon the successful completion of a world
48 language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through on-line
49 coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit provider,
50 provided such student achieves a passing grade on an examination
51 prescribed, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of
52 Education and such credits do not exceed four; (3) toward meeting the
53 high school graduation requirement upon achievement of a passing
54 grade on a subject area proficiency examination identified and
55 approved, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of
56 Education, regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a
57 public school classroom learning such subject matter; (4) toward
58 meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful
59 completion of coursework at an institution accredited by the Board of
60 Regents for Higher Education or State Board of Education or
61 regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its
62 equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for
63 purposes of this section; (5) toward meeting the high school
64 graduation requirement upon the successful completion of on-line
65 coursework, provided the local or regional board of education has
66 adopted a policy in accordance with this subdivision for the granting
67 of credit for on-line coursework. Such a policy shall ensure, at a
68 minimum, that (A) the workload required by the on-line course is
69 equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom
70 setting, (B) the content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum
71 guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where
72 appropriate, (C) the course engages students and has interactive
73 components, which may include, but are not limited to, required
74 interactions between students and their teachers, participation in on-
75 line demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs, (D) the program
76 of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and
77 systematic, and (E) the courses are (i) taught by teachers who are
78 certified in the state or another state and have received training on
79 teaching in an on-line environment, or (ii) offered by institutions of
80 higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for

81 Higher Education or State Board of Education or regionally accredited;
82 or (6) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon
83 the successful completion of the board examination series and the
84 academically gifted advancement program pursuant to section 10-5c.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-5c
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	10-221a(g)

Statement of Purpose:

To establish an academically gifted advancement program that will permit students to test-out of grade twelve and enroll in certain colleges and universities in Connecticut.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]